

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, PFOR, TECH, JA

SUBJ: OKINAWA VOA RELAY STATION

REF: STATE 049730

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SUMMARY: AT PREPARATORY CONFERENCE TO DISCUSS STATUS OF CONTINUED OPERATION OF VOA RELAY STATION, FONOFF EMPHASIZED GOJ POSITION THAT USG TERMINATE VOA OPERATION ON OKINAWA NO LATER THAN MAY 1977. GOJ UNDERTOOK TO STUDY FURTHER QUESTION OF DEFENSE OF VOA FREQUENCY OF 1178 KZ AT FORTHCOMING GENEVA ITU CONFERENCE. END SUMMARY.

1. USIS, ORS AND EMBASSY REPS MET WITH FONOFF AND MINISTRY OF POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS RADIO REGULATORY BUREAU (RRB) REPS MARCH 28 FOR PREPARATORY CONFERENCE ON STATUS OF OKINAWA VOA RELAY STATION AS AUTHORIZED REF A. GOJ SIDE LED BY FIRST NORTH AMERICA DIV HEAD FUKADA. WHILE QTE OBSERVERS UNQTE FROM RRB PRESENT, ACCORDING TO FONOFF, THEIR VIEWPOINT ON SUBJECT OF CONTINUED VOA OPERATIONS ON OKINAWA SO NEGATIVE THEY DECLINED TO BE CHARACTERIZED AS QTE PARTICIPANTS

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UNQTE AT MEETING AND RESERVED THEIR VIEW FOR EXPRESSION AT

TIME OF FORMAL CONSULTATIONS IN MAY.

2. IN BRIEF OPENING STATEMENT, FUKADA SAID THAT PURPOSE OF MEETING WAS TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR LATER, FORMAL CONSULTATIONS ABOUT THE TERMINATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE OF ORS ACTIVITIES. HE PROPOSED THAT SUCH CONSULTATIONS BE SET DURING FIRST HALF OF MAY AND THAT GOJ SIDE BE HEADED BY AMERICAN AFFAIRS BUREAU DIR GEN OKAWARA.

3. EMBASSY POL/MIL COUNSELOR RESPONDED THAT DATE AND LEVEL OF REPRESENTATION SEEMED ACCEPTABLE BUT THAT USG HAD DIFFERENT IMPRESSION OF PURPOSE OF CONSULTATIONS. READING FROM ARTICLE VIII OF REVERSION AGREEMENT, POL/MIL COUNSELOR NOTED THAT CONSULTATIONS WERE TO CONCERN THEMSELVES WITH QUESTION OF QTE CONTINUED OPERATION OF VOA RELAY STATION ON OKINAWA ISLAND UNQTE FOLLOWING EXPIRY OF FIVE-YEAR PERIOD AFTER REVERSION. HE STATED THAT THE ANTICIPATED USG POSITION DURING THOSE CONSULTATIONS WOULD BE SAME AS EXPRESSED TO GOJ DURING OKINAWA REVERSION NEGOTIATIONS. CONSEQUENTLY, US WOULD ANTICIPATE THAT FORMAL MAY CONSULTATIONS WOULD REVOLVE AROUND QUESTION OF HOW TO ACCOMMODATE CONTINUING VOA OPERATIONS ON OKINAWA AFTER 1977.

4. IN RESPONSE, FONOFF OUTLINED GOJ VIEW TOWARD VOA STATION, NOTING THAT ISSUE HAD BEEN RELATIVELY DORMANT IN DIET DURING LAST SIX MONTHS, BUT THAT ON FEW OCCASIONS WHEN IT HAD ARISEN, FIVE MAJOR THEMES HAD BEEN SOUNDED:

A. GOJ SHOULD SEEK EARLY REMOVAL OF THE STATION, EVEN BEFORE 1977.

B. GOJ SHOULD ATTEMPT TO GET NEGOTIATIONS FOR REMOVAL STARTED EVEN BEFORE MAY 74 DATE SPECIFIED IN AGREEMENT FOR FORMAL CONSULTATIONS.

C. MEANING OF \$16 MILLION USIA BUDGET REQUEST LAST YEAR FOR REPLACEMENT OF STATION AND WHAT HAPPENED TO IT.

D. EFFECTIVENESS OF GOJ MONITORING OF VOA BROADCASTS FOR OBJECTIONABLE PROPAGANDA.

E. PROVISION FOR VOA EMPLOYEES WHEN STATION CEASES OPERATION.

5. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION OF WHAT LEGAL AUTHORITY WOULD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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APPEAR TO BE NECESSARY FOR GOJ TO PERMIT CONTINUATION OF VOA OPERATIONS ON OKINAWA AFTER REVERSION AGREEMENT AUTHORITY RUNS OUT IN 1977, GOJ SIDE NOTED THAT PRIMA SATO HAD ANSWERED THIS QUESTION IN DIET, WHERE HE STATED THAT A NEW TREATY WOULD BE REQUIRED. FUKADA OPINED THAT SUCH A TREATY WOULD BE QTE VERY DIFFICULT UNQTE TO GET PAST DIET IN VIEW OF PRESENT JAPANESE INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION AND JAPANESE ATTITUDES ABOUT DESIRABILITY OF TERMINATING ORS

ACTIVITIES.

6. WITOUT BEING ASKED, GOJ SIDE ADDED THAT PROBLEM OF EX-
TENDING VOA OPERATION PAST 1977 IN CASE OF QTE UNFORESEEN
CIRCUMSTANCES UNQTE REFERRED TO IN AGREED MINUTE TO ARTICLE
VIII OF REVERSION AGREEMENT HAD RECEIVED ATTENTION IN DIET
FROM FOREIGN MINISTER, WHO STATED THAT GOJ WOULD INTERPRET
TERM UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES TO INCLUDE ONLY SUCH THINGS
AS QTE NATURAL CALAMITIES UNQTE.

7. GOJ SIDE ALSO STATED THAT NO THOUGHT HA
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